



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

with full introductions and commentaries by Paul Meyer. The earliest are Greek translations of demotic contracts from the reigns of Euergetes II and Epiphanes. Of the Roman documents the most considerable are three decrees of Caracalla, the first of which preserves the text of the *Constitutio Antoniniana* by which the rights of Roman citizenship were extended to the *peregrini* of the empire. The limitations under which this was done are at last made clear by this text, which should take an important place among Roman historical documents. The second decree preserves a supplement to the well-known amnesty proclaimed in February, 212. The indices are reserved for the third and concluding part of the volume.

EDGAR J. GOODSPEED

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Natursagen. Eine Sammlung naturdeutender Sagen, Märchen, Fabeln, und Legenden. Herausgegeben von OSKAR DÄHNHARDT. Band II: "Sagen zum Neuen Testament." Leipzig und Berlin: Teubner, 1909. Pp. xvi+316.

Tennyson's

Glastonbury, where the winter thorn

Blossoms at Christmas, mindful of Our Lord,

and his "passion flower at the gate" well illustrate the kind of folk-tales Dähnhardt has collected. That widespread popular tendency, half faith, half fancy, to interpret the everyday phenomena of nature in terms of religion and religious history, as men understood them, has produced an extraordinary mass of legend of curious interest. In many of these, no doubt, ideas really pagan have been given a Christian turn. Others reflect well-known incidents in the narratives of Jesus' infancy, especially those preserved in the apocryphal gospels, e.g., of Thomas and James, to the wide influence of which these legends bear striking testimony. A favorite expression of this religious fancy was the naming of trees and plants, or perhaps only the explanation of an existing name, from an imaginary connection with gospel or apostolic history, real or apocryphal. The Judas tree is a familiar example. Peter is, of course, a leading figure. The fish which was to enable him to pay the temple tax is variously identified in Italy, Sicily, Flanders, and Russia. The keys of heaven once dropped from Peter's hands upon the earth, and where they fell, the primrose (*Schlüsselblume*) sprang up. Cursing plays a larger part than blessing in these stories: children are cursed by Jesus; Jews are turned to swine by St. Hubert; the annoying mule in the inn stable is cursed by Mary. The mediaeval mind, it would seem, found cursing more edifying, or at least more congenial, than blessing. The great majority of the tales have little charm or force, but they are redeemed by a small number in which native wit or real religious feeling finds quaint

expression. The editor and his collaborators have gathered them from a wide range. Not only every part of Europe, but Malta, Palestine, Iceland, and the East Indies have made their contribution. The legends and sayings are compactly presented in German, with variant forms, if such exist, and full references to the sources. There is an extended bibliography, and an index makes the book easy of consultation.

EDGAR J. GOODSPEED

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Zum aegyptischen Grundbuchwesen in römischer Zeit. Untersuchungen auf Grund der griechischen Papyri. Von OTTO EGER, DR. JUR. Leipzig: Teubner, 1909. Pp. viii + 212. \$1.67.

The Greek papyri discovered in such abundance in Egypt in recent years have thrown much light upon many phases of Egyptian life under the Ptolemies and the Roman Empire. A great many of them relate to the somewhat intricate system of land tenure under which the soil of Egypt was tilled so advantageously to the Empire. Eger has examined a wide range of published papyri in the effort to elicit their testimony as to this land system, particularly as reflected in the land registries which played an important part in it under the Romans. In these record offices (*βιβλιοθήκαι*) were preserved documents establishing the legal status of every piece of land within their jurisdiction. The Romans had inherited from the Ptolemaic administration of Egypt an extended classification of lands: *γῆ βασιλική* or *δημοσία*, *γῆ οὐσιακή*, *γῆ ἱερά*, *γῆ προσόδου*, *γῆ ιδιωτική*, and *κατοικικὸς κλῆρος*. Obviously much of this land was hardly subject to sale, but everything relating to the private and catocic lands—mortgages, purchases, inheritances, or other transfers—had to be reported to the *βιβλιοφύλακες* for record. In the *βιβλιοθήκη* the legal situation of each parcel was thus steadily reflected. The details of these situations are carefully worked out by Eger on the basis of some 600 papyri, mostly of the Roman period. A valuable feature in the Roman land-office was its accessibility to private persons, who might thus satisfy themselves as to the condition of a piece of property before leasing or purchasing it on what might have proved false representations. The land-office was thus quite as truly a benefit to the individual as to the state. Eger has made a thorough and accurate study of his materials, and his work illustrates the way in which the now multiplying papyri illumine ancient life. An index would have added much to the usefulness of the book.

EDGAR J. GOODSPEED

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO